

# CHANNELS

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DATE: 4 FEB 74

ITEM NO: 2

ITEM NO: 2  
SUBJECT: LAOS--COMMUNIST ENVOY RETURNING TO VIENTIANE

REF :

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PHOUN SIPRASEUTH, THE LAO COMMUNIST'S CHIEF POLITICAL NEGOTIATOR, IS DUE TO RETURN TO VIENTIANE TODAY AFTER THREE WEEKS OF "CONSULTATIONS" IN SAM NEUA. PATHET BLAO LEADER PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG HAS EMPLOYED PHOUN TO DISCUSS THE RESOLUTION OF ANY PROBLEMS STILL PREVENTING FORMATION OF A NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT. PHOUN MAY ALSO PRESENT PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA WITH THE NAMES OF LAO COMMUNIST MEMBERS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND ITS PRINCIPAL ADVISORY BODY, THE JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL.

EXT:

E 2 IMPDET  
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CHANNELS

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PHOUN'S RETURN COMES IN THE AFTERMATH OF SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS  
IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OVER NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE AND LUANG  
PRABANG, AND DOUBTLESS WILL ENCOURAGE SOUVANNA'S EXPECTATIONS OF  
A NEW GOVERNMENT BY FEBRUARY 23--THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAO  
PEACE AGREEMENT. E-2 IMPDET.H

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